# Kishoge Community College Principal’s Report to Parents

**9th November 2023**

## Child Protection update

Niall Hare is Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

DP Ruth Keane replaces Ciara McMackin as Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLP)

## acting Deputy Principal

Kristina Troy is acting DP for the duration of Ciara McMackin’s maternity leave.

## new staff

Gillian Flanagan SNA

Hilary Cahill Admin

Kerry Relihan Science and AEN

## junior cycle 2023

Good results with most subjects achieving at or above the national average for Merit+ (10), and no. of PA/NG (13)

11 subjects achieved Distinctions.

Strong individual results with top performer achieving 3 Distinctions and 6 Higher Merits

Particularly strong performances from English, Art, French.

## setting a rate for ‘fine’ in Code of behaviour

The Code of Behaviour provides as follows:

*The* ***Principal*** *may use the above interventions and sanctions plus those listed below:*

* *impose a fine*

Fine has never been used and has never been set.

Fine may be an appropriate response to recent and growing problem of vaping.

Board asked to set a rate for a fine and settled on €25. To be reviewed.

## Enrolment First Year 2024

Enrolment closed on Monday 6th Nov.

By the closing date we had received 426 applications. (Band 1: 64; Band 2: 195; Band 3: 36; Band 4: 105; Band 5: 26)

Lotteries to fill the 104 remaining places and establish waiting lists will be held in the school on Weds 22nd Nov at 2pm. PC Chair or nominee asked to be available.

## open night

Tuesday 10th October 7.30-8.30. Was very successful. Very large number of people through the door. Great display and team work from staff, students and parents.

## maths dept

The school took part in a national Maths competition run by the IMTA. With Alexander Platsas in 2nd winning a price. This is an excellent achievement as he was competing against students across the country and in higher years as well. The Maths Department and his teacher Niamh Burke are very proud of his achievement.

## Ty Update

3rd Oct - Forensic Fun - Students got to study the assassination of JFK through the lens of a forensic investigation.

9th & 10th Oct - Develop Me - This is an opportunity for TYs to build their planning, objective setting and collaboration skills. They participated in a full day workshop that work these skills through experiential learning.

23rd Oct - Students are now out on their work experience.

**Student Enterprise Awards** - TYs are working away hard on the projects for the Winter Fair. These projects will then count towards their Student Enterprise entry.

## literacy/library Update

* New Chinese, Irish, French, Spanish and non-fiction books added to the library and catalogued
* Library Census completed for Library Association of Ireland
* Author visit ( Denise Deegan) for TY
* Lucan Library has agreed to run an exhibition of student poetry and writing. OG liaising with SLT ( creativity Captains) & Lucan librarians and to link this with Oide National Poetry competition.
* New Library Initiative 'Book of the Month launched and linked to Racial Justice -assembly delivered on this
* Community literacy data survey completed on Open Night & winner announced
* OG met with Inclusion captains to create StandUp Week display in library &plan next assembly
* New lamination book covering machine purchased.
* Internal chess league being run by Shane N. Órlagh organising matches with other schools- Adamstown won first tournament.

## computer science dept

Three Kishoge students have made it through to the finals of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2024.

5th Years Armand Meijers, Karl O’Connor and Conor Burns were among 550 projects selected from 2040 entries to represent Kishoge at the national competition in January.

The project is titled: "A smart facial recognition system for medical settings" and looks to create a project that will cut down administrative work in A&E settings

## leaving Cert Applied programme

LCA Session 2 results were released for our current 6th years. Results are of an excellent standard, with several students currently at the level of a distinction.

Both 5th and 6th year LCA students are currently partaking in work experience. They will complete 10 days of work experience in total.

Our 5th year LCA class has seen an additional 3 students join, bringing us to the maximum number of 16.

## racial justice week

Week of Oct 16th

Diverse Decorations:

Public areas in the school were adorned in displays and posters of inspirational leaders and difference makers from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. The men and women represented are from a range of fields including The Arts, Political Activism and Sport. As well as showing individuals from diverse backgrounds, every student was surveyed on their cultural identity and the flag of every country identified by the students and staff was displayed on stairwells. Teachers from different departments created hallway displays with a focus on representation in their subject areas with Chinese kites, Black Footballers and Diversity in STEM being celebrated around the corridors.

Cultural Clothing:

On Friday, all staff and students were encouraged to celebrate their cultural identity on a non-uniform day which collected money for the charity *Cooking for Freedom*. Hallways and classrooms were awash with colour as students and staff wore traditional clothing from around the world, Irish county jerseys and the colours of their flag.

Food Festival:

All week, TY students were selling snacks from around the world including Japanese Pocky Sticks, Malaysian Oat Cakes and Ghanian Plantain Chips and again all money raised from sales went to support the *Food for Freedom*. On the final day of celebration, the staff and students were joined by members of the Kishoge Parents Council for the *Cultural Food Festival*. The festival was a major success with the school selling out of plates and having to raid the staff room for bowls and spoons to continue trading! The food was donated by parents, staff and the Parents Council and included Nigerian Jollof Rice, Indian Curries, Chinese Dumplings and Irish scones to name but a few.

Lessons, ‘Kishoge Talks’ and Ethics:

Throughout the week, each student had an Ethics class on celebrating different cultures and racial justice. The junior year groups had a Black History Month trail and poster creation project while the seniors focussed on how to create racial equality using examples from the past.

## extracurricular updates

* **Debate Club:**We have a senior debate team registered to take part in the DDLETB competition after midterm.
* **Chess Club:**Kishoge played Adamstown CC in a tense tournament. Adamstown won 17/24. Kishoge internal chess league going strong with new teacher Shane leading the charge.
* **Amnesty International:** A lovely group of 5th years running it and they are taking part in the Amnesty Academy one Wednesday per month and they will visit Amnesty International in Dublin City Centre. Amnesty have also met to discuss humanitarian aid in Gaza and they want to run a lunchtime help and support desk after midterm break.
* **Girls GAA:** our junior and senior teams have nearly played all their matches in the league stages.
* **Girls Basketball:** Both U16 & U19s have played all their pool games in their group and are waiting to hear back whether they progress into the next stage.
* **Fitness Club:** Mondays club is before school so there will be a big push for promoting this in the darker winter months, but attendance in both Mondays and Wednesdays has been growing week to week. These clubs are run by our student leaders - sports captains.
* **Tai Chi:** This is a new club which is run by our Chinese teacher Tina, she has ordered in special equipment from China for authenticity. This club is now running on a Wednesday after school.
* **Romanian Club:** This is a new club that will be starting after midterm and organised by a new teacher Emilia. A lot of our students speak Romanian at home as their first language and hopefully it will help with parent teacher relations.
* **Music Jamming Session:**  the first of the music jamming sessions starts today, it is targeted at seniors where they can share spoken words, poetry, stand-up comedy or create music. All welcome and thanks to Elaine for organising.

## annual bullying survey

Annual whole school survey will take place this month. YHs will visit all classes to conduct short written survey.

## works on and beside school grounds

Current works in carpark are due to be completed this week.

They are bringing water mains to the site of the new 30-classroom primary school due to open in Sept 2025.

## second year PSTM

Second Yr Parent-Student-Teacher meeting takes place via Teams on Tuesday 14th Nov.